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IN REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION ABOUT AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE KNR
(Information)

On the 6th of September 1951, the US Ambassador in the USSR, Kehrk [Kirk], handed comrade A.Ya. Vyshinskij a memorandum which reported that "presently there are more than 20 American citizens imprisoned in China", "about 30 American citizens are 'under house arrest'" and "a number of others have been continually denied permission to leave China over the last two or more years."

The memorandum alleges that "there has been rude and unjustified treatment of American citizens by Chinese communist authorities" and requests that the Soviet Government submit to the KNR Government on behalf of the US Government the information stated in the memorandum in order to get the KNR Government "to report information related to these American prisoners and to take whatever steps that may prove necessary to take just and quick action on these cases."

Comrade Vyshinskij stated to Kehrk that "the facts stated in the message concern the internal affairs of the KNR, and the Soviet Government does not have the opportunity to intervene in these affairs, the way the US Government may expect that it has." "With regard to the incidents referenced to in the message", Comrade Vyshinskij further stated,

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"I am certain that the actions of the Government of the People's Republic of China are justified."

On 5 October 1951, Kehrk visited Comrade Vyshinskij and reported that he "wanted to inquire about the outcome of the US Government request", which he made in the discussion with Comrade Vyshinskij on 6 September 1951, "about the Soviet Government defending the interests of American citizens in China."

Comrade Vyshinskij stated to Kehrk that he [Vyshinskij] "has not yet been able to clarify this question."

On 12 October 1951, Comrade Vyshinskij ordered the USSR Embassy in Peking to inform the KNR Government about the contents of the US memorandum dated 6 September 1951 and about the response that Comrade Vyshinskij gave to Kehrk on 6 September 1951.

On 19 December 1951, Charge d'Affaires ad interim Kamming handed Comrade A.A. Gromyko a memorandum which contained a request "to notify the US Government about the Soviet Government's decision concerning the request contained in the message delivered by Mr. Kehrk on 6 September 1951."

Comrade Gromyko stated to Kamming that "the question broached by Kamming is the business of the United States and China."

On 22 December 1951, Comrade Gromyko instructed the USSR Embassy in Peking to inform the government of the KNR about Kamming's delivery of this memorandum.

On 20 May 1953, US Embassy Advisor O'Shonessi stated in a discussion with Comrade V.I. Bazykin that "the declarations made by the US Government through the British Embassy in China were unsuccessful, and therefore, the US Government once again appeals to the MID with an unofficial

request to draw the Chinese Government's attention to this question."

During the discussion, O'Shonessi handed Comrade Bazykin a copy of the US Government memorandum dated 6 September 1951 and another unofficial, in his words, text which shows that "there are presently 29 American prisoners and one American under house-arrest in the KNR" and that "it's speculated that there are nearly 90 other Americans" who want to leave KNR, "but have been unable to obatin an exit visa."

Comrade Bazykin stated to O'Shonessi that the question posed by him [O'Shonessi] "bears no relation to the MID USSR and is exclusively within the competency of the government of the People's Republic of China." In reply, O'Shonessi stated that he understood completely and emphasized that his appeal was unofficial in nature.

On 26 May 1953, Comrade V.M. Molotov intructed the USSR Embassy in Peking to visit Chou En-Lai and to inform him about the contents of the discussion between Comrade Bazykin and O'Shonessi.

According to a report dated 28 May 1953 from the USSR Ambassador in the KNR, Comrade V.V. Kuznetsov, Chou En-Lai in a discussion with Kuznetsov said that it was possibile that such Americans were in China and that the KNR Government would look into this matter. Chou En-Lai added that Americans are detaining Chinese students in the US who have graduated from institutions of higher education.

Discrepancies in the information about the number of Americans supposedly detained in the KNR draws attention to itself in the aforementioned written and verbal statements by the US Government. In turn, this information differs with reports in the American press and on radio*.

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* See TASS reports dated 18 Sep 53, p. 60; 8 Feb 54, p. 10; 20 Mar 54, p. 29; 22 Mar 54, p. 40; 27 Mar 54, p. 17.

It should be noted that, during the discussion with Comrade Vyshinskij on 6 September 1951, Kehrk stated that the message that he delivered was also sent to the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, Indonesia, Burma, India and Pakistan and that, "because of American public's concern over this question, it may be considered necessary later to make this step known to the public."

Of late, reports are appearing in the American press with increasing frequency that attest to the fact that the US State Department intends to use the issue of American citizens in KNR in order to intensify the slanderous and hostile to the KNR propaganda, which is intended to henceforth slow the KNR's admittance into the UN and to hinder any possibility of effective participation by the KNR in the Geneva Convention.

According to reports from the United Press Agency dated 17 September 1953 and 8 February 1954, the US State Department intends to submit the question about American citizens in the KNR for consideration by the UN. According to a report in the "New York Times" dated 22 March 1954, "the State Department is studying the possibility of demanding the freedom of 32 American citizens" allegedly located in the KNR at the Geneva Convention.

Drafted by [signature] A. Myshkov

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20.V.537.

September 6, 1951

The Government of the United States of America has been viewing with increasing concern the harsh and unjustified treatment of American nationals by the Chinese Communist authorities. There are at this time more than twenty American citizens imprisoned in China, the majority of whom have been under arrest for six months or more. One has died in prison and several are believed to be in great physical or economic distress. There are approximately thirty American nationals under what is known as "house arrest". A number of others have for a varying period of two years or more been consistently refused permission to leave China, a condition which is tantamount to forced detention. Of the persons under arrest, at least some are known to be allowed no communication with anyone outside their prison. In most cases the Chinese Communist authorities have given no explanation of the arrests or any information concerning the welfare or whereabouts of the persons arrested. Access has been denied to legal counsel and to officials representing American interests in Communist China. It is our understanding that there are a number of nationals of other

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of other powers who have undergone similar treatment at the hands of the Chinese Communist authorities.

The United States Government has anxiously awaited signs that the arbitrary arrests of Americans would cease and that those under detention would be afforded the basic and well-recognized right of reasonable opportunity for communication with relatives and friends, access to legal counsel, disclosure of charges against them, and of responsible adjudication of their cases. However, long-continued denial of these rights and the absence of the prospect that they will soon be granted have obliged this government to seek some extraordinary means for their relief.

It is upon the basis of the principles generally accepted in international relations of the treatment of persons in foreign countries, as well as on the ground of common humanity, that the United States Government asks your government to present on its behalf the foregoing facts to the central Chinese Communist authorities at Peiping, with the request that they provide information concerning these imprisoned Americans and take such steps as may be necessary to afford just and expeditious action on their cases.

According to the best information available to this Government 29 Americans are now in prison in Communist China and one is under house arrest. It is estimated that about 90 other Americans who wish to leave Communist China are unable to obtain exit permits.

A number of Americans have been in prison over two years, and at least five are known to have died in prison or as a result of maltreatment. Most of those in prison are known to have been allowed no communication with anyone outside. In most cases the local Chinese Communist authorities have given no explanation of the arrests or any information concerning the welfare or whereabouts of the persons arrested. Access has been denied to legal counsel and to British officials, who have been representing American interests in Communist China. The British Government has been continuously active in bringing new cases to the attention of the Communist officials and presenting any new details of old cases. Other Governments having representatives in Peiping have also made representations. Every attempt to obtain information about the imprisoned Americans or to obtain their early release has been met with rebuff or indifference on the part of the Chinese Communist authorities.

The latest example of the unwarranted seizure of Americans occurred on March 21, when a private yacht, the "Kert", flying the American flag and carrying three Americans, Richard Applegate, Donald Dixon and Benjamin Krasner, was intercepted by a Chinese Communist gunboat off the west coast of Lantao Island, near Hong Kong apparently in waters ordinarily considered international, and taken to the Communist held Lap Sap Mei Island group. Although a protest concerning this action was delivered to the Chinese Communist authorities by the British Charge at Peiping, no reply has been received.

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PRISON IN COMMUNIST CHINA

NAME	ORGANIZATION	APPROX. DATE ARRESTED	PLACE
APPLEGATE, Richard	Press correspondent	March 21, 1953	Arrested on yacht "Kert" between Hong Kong and Maca
BERSOHN, Malcolm	Medical Student, Peking Union Medical College	Feb., 1951	Peiping, Hopei
BRADSHAW, Dr. and Mrs. Homer V.	Presbyterian Mission	Feb., 1951	Arrested at Lienhsien, Kwa
BUOL, Lawrence R.	Civil Air Transport	Jan., 1950	Kumming, Yunnan
COTE, Bishop Philip	Catholic Bishop	Dec. 5, 1951	Hsuchow, Kiangsu Province
DIXON, Donald M.	Press correspondent	Mar. 21, 1953	Arrested on yacht "Kert" Hong Kong and Macao
GARVEY, Rev. Justin	Passionist Mission	Dec., 1951	Yuanling, Hunan
GROSS, Rev. Fulgence	Franciscan Mission Unit	Jan., 1951	Tsingtao, Shantung
KANADY, Dilmus T.	Edw. T. Robertson and Sons	Apr. 26, 1951	Shanghai, Kiangsu
KIEHN, Arnold Milton	Private business	Mar., 1951	Shanghai, Kiangsu
KOWALSKI, Bishop Robert R.	Franciscan Fathers	June, 1951	Wuchang (Hankow) Hupei
KRASNER, Benjamin	Merchant mariner	Mar.21, 1953	Arrested on yacht "Kert" Hong Kong and Macao
LAU, Laura	Missionary	Feb., 1951	Lienhsien, Kwangtung

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LOVEGREN, Levi A.	Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission	Jan. 15, 1951	Arrested at Sichang, Sikang Transferred to Yaan, Sikang Held at Chungking, Szechwan
MACKINSEN, Paul	Lutheran missionary	Mar. 7, 1952	Tsingtao, Shantung
McCANN, Robert	Frazar Federal Inc.	June 14, 1951	Tientsin, Hopei
MIDDLETON, Dorothy	Mission to Lepers	Feb., 1951	Arrested at Lienhsien, Kwan
MILLS, Harriet	Peking University	July 25, 1951	Peiping, Hopei
PERKINS, Sarah	Presbyterian Mission	Feb. 1951	Arrested at Lienhsien, Kwangtung. Held at Canton
PINGER, Bishop Ambrose H.	Franciscan Mission Unit	April, 1951	Tsingtao, Shantung
PROULX, Armand	Catholic Mission, Shanghai	March, 1952	Shanghai, Kiangsu
REDMOND, Hugh Francis	Import-export business	Apr. 26, 1952	Shanghai, Kiangsu
RICKETT, Mr. W. A.	Peking University	July 25, 1951	Peiping, Hopei
RIGNEY, Rev. Harold W.	Society of Divine Word	July, 1951	Peiping, Hopei
SCHNEIDER, Siegfried	Catholic Mission	June, 14, 1951	Hankow, Hupei
SWIFT, Jonathan	Franciscan Mission Unit	Dec.25, 1950	Tsingtao, Shantung
WHITE, Rev. Marcellus	Passionist Mission	Feb. 24, 1952	Arrested at Yungshun, Hun Transferred to Yuanling,
WINTER, Mr. W. L.	Presbyterian Mission	Feb, 1951	Arrested at Lienshien, Kwangtung. Held at Canto
RICKETT, Mrs. W. A.	Peking University	July 24, 1951	Peiping, Hopei

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